

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 12481

BONN FOR CROWLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN
SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE GOLD COMMISSION MEETING: DECEMBER 14

1. TRIPARTITE GOLD COMMISSION (TGC) HELD MEETING DECEMBER 14 WITH
THREE ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS AND SECRETARY GENERAL PRESENT,
PRIMARILY
TO DISCUSS CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS:
A. COMMISSION FORMALLY INFORMED SECGEN WATSON THAT HIS RESIGNATION
FORREASONS OF HEALTH WAS BEING ACCEPTED WITH PROFOUND REGRET.
EFFECTIVE DATE OF RESIGNATION LEFT OPEN DURING MEETING, BUT HAS BEEN
SUBSEQUENTLY FIXED AT JANUARY 15, 1977.
B. SECGEN WATSON WAS FURTHER INFORMED THAT, IN VIEW OF LONG
PERIOD OF TIME ELAPSED SINCE SUPPOSEDLY TERMINAL FINANCIAL
ARRANGEMENTS
WERE MADE WITH HIM IN EARLY 1973, THE COMMISSION HAD DECIDED TO RAISE
HIS MONTHLY RETAINER TO BF 10,000 EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 1976, UNTIL HIS
RETIREMENT DATE. IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT WATSON WOULD REMAIN
AVAILABLE AFTERWARDS FOR CONSULTATION, FI NEEDED, AT A FEE OF
BF 2,500 PER CONSULTATION.
C. ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS ALSO PLACED IN THE RECORD THE
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COMMISSION'S AGREEMENT ON APPOINTMENT OF A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL.
THE CHOICE IS MR. COLIN HARRIS, BORN 1912 AND MEMBER OF THE BRITISH
DIPLOMATIC SERVICE FROM 1935 TO RETIREMENT IN 1969. MR. HARRIS HAS
BEEN RESIDENT IN BRUSSELS SINCE 1973. FULL BIOGRAPHY WILL BE
POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT, ATTENTION L/ECP-MAURER AND EUR/NE. THE
BRITISH ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER AGREED TO BEGIN DRAFTING A NOTE TO

THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMING MINISTRY OF WATSON'S RETIREMENT AND MR. HARRIS' APPOINTMENT, AND REQUESTING ISSUANCE OF A DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY CARD FOR THE LATTER, ENTITLING HIM TO THE SAME PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AS HIS PREDECESSOR. MR. HARRIS WILL BE PAID A MONTHLY RETAINER OF BF 10,000/MONTH. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD PROVIDE AUTHENTICATED SPECIMEN SIGNATURES OF MR. HARRIS AND AUTHORITY FOR HIM TO UNDERTAKE TRANSACTIONS WITH THE BANK OF ENGLAND, THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK, AND MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST IN BRUSSELS.

2. AT CLOSE OF MEETING, US ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER HANDED OVER A LETTER HE HAD WRITTEN DIRECTLY TO THE UK AND FRENCH ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS ASKING THAT THEY INFORMALLY REVIEW THEIR FILES TO ASCERTAIN IF THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAD DEVELOPED POSITIONS ON PROPOSED TRANSFER PROCEDURES DISCUSSED BILATERALLY BETWEEN THE US AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1974. LETTER OBSERVES THAT THE LAST COMMISSION RECORD AT THE TIME--THE TGC MEETING OF 9/17/74--IS INCONCLUSIVE ON THIS POINT, AND FURTHER OBSERVES THAT AN INFORMAL REVIEW OF AVAILABLE RECORDS BY CURRENT COMMISSIONERS NOW MIGHT PREVENT POSSIBLE CONFUSION AND TIME LOST WHENEVER THE TRANSFER IS READY TO BE MADE. COPY OF LETTER ALSO BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT, ATTENTION L/ECP-MAURER AND EUR/EE.

3. FOR PRAGUE: USNATO HAS CALLED TO OUR ATTENTION PRAGUE 3517 CONCERNING INTER ALIA CZECHOSLOVAKIA GOLD ISSUE. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SPECIFYING EMBASSY BRUSSELS (ATTENTION: TRIPARTITE GOLD COMMISSIONER) FOR INFORMATION COPY FOR ALL FUTURE REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT.
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